

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 12, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-172-Swan Valley – Teton 1&2)

TO: Joe Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS/Kalispell

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for the Swan Valley – Teton 1&2 Transmission Line Corridor between Towers 29/1 & 36/3. The line is a 115kV Single Circuit Transmission Line having an easement width of 140 feet.

Location: The subject right-of-way is located in Teton County, WY, being in the Idaho Falls Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: The work will include the removal of up to 30 danger trees that pose a hazard to the operation of the subject transmission line.

Analysis: Please see the attached checklist for the resources present. Applicable findings and mitigation measures are discussed below.

Planning Steps:

1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.

BPA proposes to clear danger trees from the transmission line right-of-way in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA Standards. These trees are approaching the electrical clearance zones of the lines. BPA is clearing these trees to prevent them from falling or growing into the lines causing system outages. The work will provide system reliability.

Initial entry

The trees approaching the clearance zones have been identified. They will be cut to provide 35 to 40 feet of clearance from the lines.

Subsequent entry

The project area will be inspected yearly. Trees that are classified as “danger trees” will be cut as necessary.

Future cycles

During routine patrols, the ROW will be examined for trees approaching the clearance zones. These trees will be cut as necessary.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.

The project area comprises of land owned by the US Forest Service as well as two private owners. Coordination efforts have been conducted between the Forest Service and the BPA Natural Resource Specialist. The Forest Service identified no issues. The private landowners will be notified prior to the start of the project. It has been concluded that no mitigation is necessary.

3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

A search of the BPA T-View Data Base shows that there are no species of concern or critical habitat within .5 miles of the work area. No ground disturbance will occur, therefore, no cultural resources will be affected. Two creeks have been identified within the project area. There are two trees selected to be removed from these areas. The cut trees will be removed to a location away from the streams. Based on available information, the project activities will not impact any natural or cultural resources; therefore, no mitigation will be necessary

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

The trees will be cut using manual and mechanical methods to provide 35 to 40 feet of clearance.

Debris disposal will be by a combination of chipping and mulching.

5. Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.

No revegetation is required.

6. Determine monitoring needs.

The site will be inspected and monitored by routine maintenance inspections and aerial patrols.

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

Besides this Supplement Analysis, no other environmental documentation should be necessary.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Frederick Walasavage
Frederick Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 08/15/2003

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
F. Walasavage – KEP/Celilo
E. Stratton – KEP/PSB2
P. Key – LC-7
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
S. Davis – TFI/Idaho Falls
M. Hadley – TFIF/Idaho Falls
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

Vegetation Management Checklist

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See Handbook — [List of Right-of-way Components](#) for checkboxes and the requirements for the components [Rights-of-way](#), [Access Roads](#), [Switch Platforms](#), [Danger Trees](#), and [Microwave Beam paths](#).

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Swan Valley-Teton 1&2	35 miles/115Kv	140'	6 miles

Danger Tree clearing

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types](#), [Density](#), [Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

Douglas Fir

Pine

Spruce

Aspen

1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why. See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

We are only cutting marked DT's. Area will not be disturbed.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - [Overall Management Scheme/Schedule](#).

Initial entry – Cut marked DT's this September

Subsequent entries – Cut brush next year

Future cycles – R/W will be on a 7 to 10 year cycle

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.

See Handbook — [Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for requirements, and [List of Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for a checkbox list.

Forest and recreation

2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., doorhanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.

See Handbook — [Methods for Notification and Requesting Information](#) for requirements.

A meeting with the USFS was conducted. The Forest Service identified no issues. The two private owners will notified by telephone

2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.

See handbook — [Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses](#) for requirements and guidance, also [Residential/Commercial](#), [Agricultural](#), [Tribal Reservations](#), [FS-managed lands](#), [BLM –managed lands](#), [Other federal lands](#), [State/ Local Lands](#).

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
29/1	36/3	Forest	Cutting only

2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.

See handbook — [Landowner Agreements](#) for requirements.

None

2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure’s to take due to the informal use.

See handbook — [Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way](#) for requirements.

Forest recreation

2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.

See handbook — [Other Potentially Affected Publics](#) for requirements and suggestions.

None

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

See Handbook — [Natural Resources](#)

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.

See Handbook — [Water Resources](#) for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Span		Waterbody	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From						
29/2	29/3	Multi creeks	Cutting of two trees	None	N/A	N/A	Trees will be removed away from streams
30/3	30/4	Creek		None	N/A	N/A	Trees will be removed away from streams

3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).

See Handbook — [Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs](#) for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

N/A

3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.

See Handbook — [T&E Plant or Animal Species](#) for requirements and determining presence.

None

3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.

See Handbook — [Protecting Other Species](#) for requirements.

None

3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.

See Handbook — [Visual Sensitive Areas](#) for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
30/3	30/4	Wyoming Hwy 22	Trees cut will not have any impact on Hwy

3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.

See Handbook – [Cultural Resources](#) for requirements.

None known

3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.

See Handbook – [Steep/Unstable Slopes](#) for requirements.

None

3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.

See Handbook – [Spanned Canyons](#) for requirements.

None

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

See Handbook — [Methods](#)

4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.

See Handbook — [Manual](#), [Mechanical](#), [Biological](#), and [Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

Span		Methods, including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
29/1	36/3	Cutting only w/clean up

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.

See Handbook — [Debris disposal](#) for a checkbox list and requirements.

Lop and scatter

5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).

See Handbook — [Reseeding/replanting](#) for requirements.

N/A

5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.

N/A

5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.

N/A

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

See handbook — [Monitoring](#) for requirements.

6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.

None needed

6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.

None

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

See handbook — [Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation](#) for requirements. . Also prepare Supplement Analysis — [Supplement Analysis](#) — for signature.

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.

None

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

None